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# AMERICAN VAMPIRE

VERTIGO

SCOTT  
SNYDER

RAFAEL  
ALBUQUERQUE

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"AND THE BOTTLE BREAKS."

BOOM!

THAT'S WHAT WE USED TO CALL IT WHEN  
ONE OF OUR FRIENDS GAVE UP ON THE  
DREAM, HE AND PEARLIE, "THE  
BOTTLE-BREAK..."

ALL THOSE  
GUYS AND GALS,  
HOPEFUL LIKE US,  
WHO JUST  
COULDN'T TAKE  
IT ANYMORE...

...A DREAM DYING.  
A BOTTLE TOSSED  
AGAINST THE  
HOLLYWOOD  
SIGN...



...FUNNY, I ALWAYS HAD  
A BIT OF A CRUSH ON YOU,  
MYSELF, HENRY. DON'T TELL  
PEARLE, OBVIOUSLY. SHE'D  
KILL ME, BUT IT'S TRUE. I  
THOUGHT YOU AND ME,  
WE'D MAKE A BETTER  
PAIR...



...NOW THAT  
SHE'S OUT OF  
THE PICTURE, WE  
CAN SEE FOR  
OURSELVES.



SO LET'S  
END THIS DREAM  
OF PEARL AND YOU,  
LIVING HAPPILY  
EVER AFTER,  
SHALL WE?



LET'S  
TOSS THAT  
BOTTLE.



HANG  
ON THERE,  
POLLY.



YOU HAVE  
GOT TO BE  
KIDDING.

I'M JUST  
SAYING, THIS  
ISN'T PART  
OF THE  
PLAN.



THE PLAN, OLD  
MAN, IS ANYTHING I  
SAY IT IS. YOU WANT  
THAT THING OUT OF  
YOUR CHEST? YOU'LL  
RETHINK WHAT  
YOU'RE DOING  
RIGHT NOW.

PUTTING A  
DOG OUT OF ITS  
MISERY IS ONE THING.  
BUT TURNING HIM  
INTO ONE OF  
THEM...



THERE IS NO "THEM."  
THEY ARE MY MINIONS,  
SKINNER. THEY DO  
WHAT I SAY.

WHAT BETTER  
PUNISHMENT FOR  
PEARL, THAN HAVING  
THE GREAT LOVE OF  
HER LIFE TURNED INTO  
ONE OF MY SLAVES,  
A MONSTER WHO  
HATES HER.



THAT  
AIN'T HOW  
I SEE IT.



AND LOOK AT  
THISSES...

...YOU LOVE  
HER, TOO, IS  
THAT IT?

SHE'S  
NOT EVEN  
CLOSE.

I JUST DON'T  
LIKE THE IDEA OF  
MORE OF THEM,  
WALKING THE  
EARTH.



KEEP TELLING  
YOURSELF THAT,  
LOVERBOY. NOW  
GET OUT OF MY  
WAY, YOU WHIPPED  
LITTLE DOG!









STEP AWAY  
FROM THE  
COWBOY.

ALL OF  
YOU.



PEARLY DIDN'T  
YOU HEAR, PALT  
YOUR PART WAS  
GUT ALREADY.



YEAH,  
I WROTE  
MYSELF BACK  
IN, BITCH.







YOU'RE SO  
FUCKING STUPID IT  
KILLS ME. BELIEVING  
YOU CAN LIVE YOUR  
HAPPY LITTLE LIFE  
WITH YOUR LOVERBOY,  
AND THAT NONE OF  
IT WILL CATCH UP  
TO YOU?



HEH... WELL, THE SAME WAY  
YOU CAUGHT UP TO ME  
ON THE SET OF ATLANTIS,  
RIGHT WHEN I HAD IT ALL,  
I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE  
TO TAKE IT AWAY  
FROM YOU.



NOT JUST ME,  
BUT ALL OF US.  
THE ONES YOU HURT.  
THE PAST WILL  
ALWAYS COME  
TO GET YOU.



CASE IN  
POINT...



...THE KNIFE  
I STABBED YOU WITH,  
ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.  
GOLD... SEE, PEARLIE?  
I THINK AHEAD. AFTER  
ALL, WE BOTH KNOW I'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE  
WITH THE BRAINS IN  
THIS OUTFIT!







NO, NOT  
NOW...



HENRY! IS HE  
BREATHING?!



I CAN'T  
HEAR HIS  
HEART!  
PLEASE,  
HENRY...



PLEASE!  
COME BACK  
TO ME!



2012









TELL ME YOU  
WERE GOING TO  
AT LEAST SAY  
GOODBYE.



I WAS. I  
WAS GOING  
TO CALL YOU  
FROM THE ROAD  
TONIGHT. I  
JUST...

I'M GLAD  
I CAUGHT  
YOU. ...

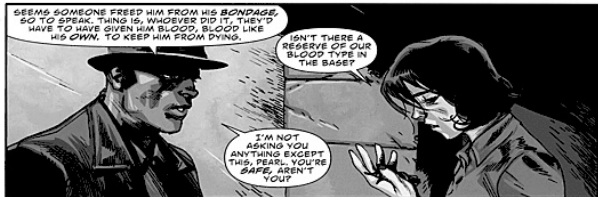
WELL...THE VMS IS  
REBUILDING THE LOS  
ANGELES BASE. BIXBY,  
HE'S A TOUGH BASTARD,  
HE'S RECOVERING WELL.



THAT'S  
GOOD, I'M  
GLAD.

THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
ELSE THOUGH,  
PEARL. IT SEEMS IN  
THE CONFUSION,  
AFTER THE ATTACK,  
SKINNER SWEET  
ESCAPED.

HUM,  
IS THAT  
SO.



MORE THAN UNDERSTOOD.

THERE'S ONE MORE THING, PEARL.



THIS WAS FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE OF THE MEDICAL BAY.

HENRY WROTE IT NOT LONG BEFORE THE ATTACK.



CAN I ASK WHERE TO?



YOU CAN. I WAS THINKING I MIGHT HEAD BACK HOME, WHERE I GREW UP. BUT HONESTLY, CAL, I'M NOT SURE.

MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING. I'LL BE WAITING ON THAT GOODBYE CALL, TOO.

"PEARL, IF YOU'RE READING THIS, IT MEANS...WELL, I GUESS IT MEANS MY PART OF OUR SONG ENDED LITTLE EARLIER THAN I'D HAVE LIKED.

"AND FOR THAT, HON, FOR BOWING OUT EARLY, I'M SO, SO SORRY.

"BUT WHAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW, PEARL, HERE AND NOW, IS WHAT I'M NOT SORRY FOR. I'M NOT SORRY FOR MAKING THE CHOICE, TOGETHER, NOT TO TURN ME.

For Pearl

"SEE, THE THING IS, I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN YOU WERE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ME, THAN US, I KNEW IT BEFORE YOU BECAME A VAMPIRE, AND I KNEW IT AFTER. YOU GOT MORE LIFE, MORE FIRE IN YOU THAN A NORMAL BODY'LL HOLD, GIRL.

"ME, THOUGH, I'M DIFFERENT. I HAD A ROUGH TIME OF IT, AS A YOUNG MAN, AND IN MUSIC, IN LIFE, ALL I EVER WANTED WAS SOME KIND OF HOME, OF PEACE.

"AND FOR A LONG TIME, I FOUND THAT WITH YOU. IT'S WHERE I WANT TO STAY NOW, PEARL, HOME, EVEN THOUGH I CAN SEE YOU'RE READY FOR SOMETHING NEW.

"I KNOW YOU WANT THE SOMETHING NEW TO BE WITH ME, BUT I'M SO TIRED, PEARL, TIRED AND GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE TIMES WE'VE HAD TOGETHER. FROM HERE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AND BACK. I'M GRATEFUL FOR IT ALL.

"BEST THING I EVER DID WITH MY LIFE HAPPENED ON A MORNING IN 1925, WHEN I ASKED A GIRL TO JOIN ME FOR A CUP OF COFFEE.

"I LOVE YOU, PEARL, NOW AND ALWAYS.

"NOW GO ON. NO MORE LOOKING BACK. ONLY FORWARD. MY PART MIGHT BE OVER, BUT YOUR SONG IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING."

# THE BLACKLIST

part six of six

SCOTT SNYDER writer RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE artist  
DAVE MCCOIG colors JARED N. FLETCHER letters ALBUQUERQUE cover  
GREGORY LOCKARD mast. editor MARK DOYLE editor  
AMERICAN VAMPIRE created by SCOTT SNYDER & RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

Next:  
Coda

SNYDER/ALBUQUERQUE/D. 10  
2012

ON THE

# LEDGE

Steig Larsson and I are lifelong feminists. Stop cheering, honestly, there's no need. Yeah, so not quite the reaction from most of you. In fact, most readers won't have made it this far into the column. For a broad readership, feminism isn't a vanilla vote-getter. It's not like being for freedom or against poverty or in favor of animal sanctuaries.

Feminism, in most people's minds, carries with it implications of reproach. Most people don't know what feminism is, but they're pretty sure they're on the wrong side of it. You're not. End of.

Feminism means accepting that gender is a continuum, not a binary. Gender roles don't really look like this:

Proper men ---- void ---- Proper women

They actually look like this:

Machoman - cage fighter - sportsman - normal person - Gender Neutral - normal person - prone to knitting - sighs at flowers - Sobbing Starlet looking for a powerful husband.

Everyone is somewhere along the line from female to male. Plot your position, let other people be who they are, and get on with it. Men are from Mars, but so are women.

The fallout from that premise is that we all have an equal right to legal protection, to work and be independent, to not have our faces kicked in while we're cooking the dinner.

Larsson was a self-declared feminist. If you think being a female feminist leaves you open to ridicule, trying being a guy. That would put him at the "machoman" end of the gender spectrum, although possibly momentarily.

The Millennium Trilogy is a dangerous piece of feminist propaganda wrapped up in a populist narrative. His first novel was called "Men Who Hate Women" in Swedish. Every section of "Men Who Hate Women" has a frontispiece with a startling statistic about sexual violence in Sweden. He has (spoiler alert) a woman save a man who is about to be sexually violated.

But, somehow, that provocative, lay-out-your-stall title was thought not to quite work in English. Not snappy enough. The title became "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo." The frontispieces were kept in the book but didn't make it into the movies, not cinematic enough. Also, in the movies, Salander seems to live with a makeup artist. As an ex-goth myself I can tell you, it doesn't look like that if you put on your own makeup in a dark flat. It might look okay in the dark flat, but when you go out into daylight it looks as if you'd put your head into the make up bag and shook it. So these comics are an act of love, an attempt to bring it back to the hardcore story Larsson wrote. Steig, pal, a warm hand to your back, wherever you are.

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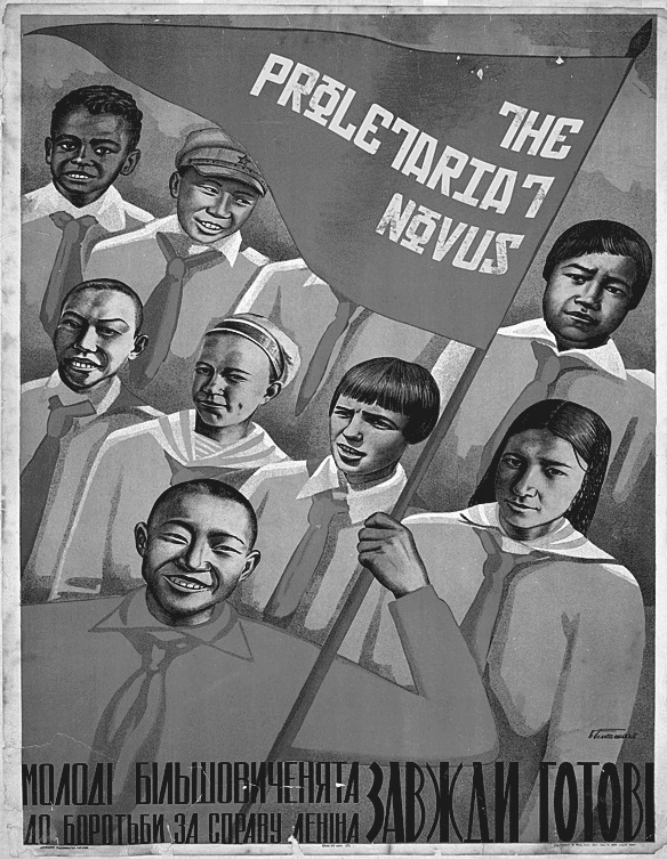
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GRAPHIC NOVEL #100 DENISE MINA LEONARDO MANCO ANDREA MUTTI  
**STIEG LARSSON'S**



**DENISE MINA** is an author, playwright and screenwriter based out of Glasgow, Scotland. Her novels include *Field of Blood*, *Slip of the Knife*, and *The End of Wasp Season*. She has previously written comics for Vertigo, both *HELLBLAZER: EMPATHY IS THE ENEMY* and *A SICKNESS IN THE FAMILY*.



THE  
PROLETARIAT  
NOVUS

МОЛОДИ БИШОВИЧЕНЯТА ЗАВЖДИ ГОТОВИ  
ДО БОРЬБИ ЗА СПРАВУ ЛЕНИНА